



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 21 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
21 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. Communist China

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2. Laos

Souvanna Phouma has expressed new reservations about the anti-infiltration barrier across the Demilitarized Zone. In a recent conversation with Ambassador Sullivan, Souvanna said he was "troubled" by the fact that the US had publicly announced that such a system would be installed, and was particularly disturbed by press speculation that the manned portion of the barrier would extend into Laos.

3. Greece

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4. Nigeria

Biafra has been shaken by a series of military reverses in recent days. There are no signs of imminent collapse, however, and fighting will probably go on for some time.

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## 5. Panama

The government coalition is split down the middle over President Robles' selection of David Samudio as its presidential candidate in next May's election. The confusions and divisions now boiling up in the feeble eight-party coalition could still be overcome, but this would require important concessions that no one now seems prepared to make.

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All of this is doing no good to the draft Canal treaties. Few politicians are prepared now to stick out their necks on the issue. The rabble-rousing newspapers owned by nephews of Arnulfo Arias are calling for a return to "the spirit of January 1964."

## 6. South Arabia

Britain has advanced South Arabia's independence date to sometime in November

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The territory still lacks any government to give independence to, but the two rival nationalist groups do seem somewhat closer to agreement.

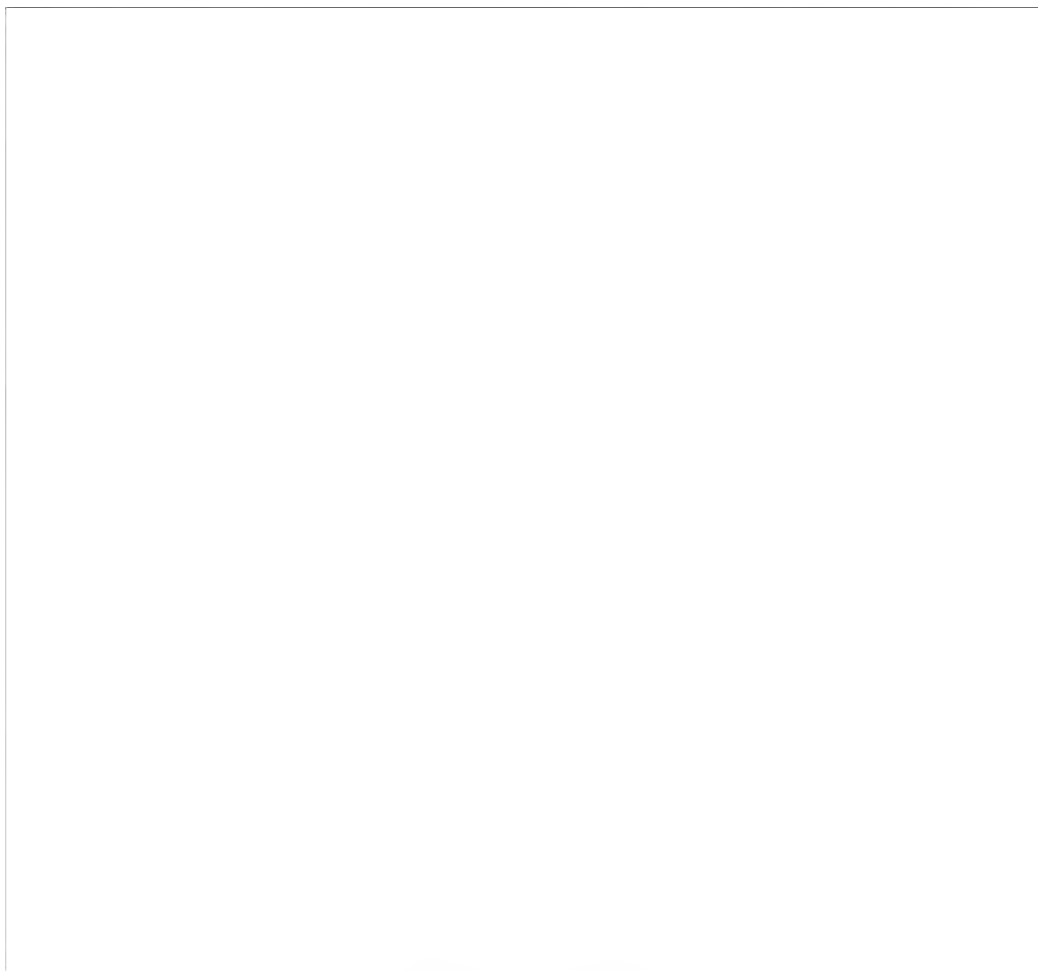
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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM  
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

21 September 1967

North Vietnamese Conditions Last Month: [REDACTED]

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--The material situation in North Vietnam is very precarious. Except for basic foodstuffs and war materials, there is nothing.

--Morale in the rural areas is very high, but much lower in large cities such as Hanoi and Vinh.

--In Hanoi, many civilians, particularly older segments of the population, would like to see an end to the war. They have had enough of living on a perpetual war footing and of continually receiving orders and instructions.

--The young people in general are fanaticized, probably because they have never known anything but war. The bombings have had no effect on the morale of the youth.

--Politically, the North Vietnamese are persuading themselves that as long as political and social troubles persist in South Vietnam they cannot lose.

--As long as action against North Vietnam is restricted to bombing, no change in the situation can be expected. Only an invasion and occupation of part of their territory can decide the North Vietnamese to change their attitude.

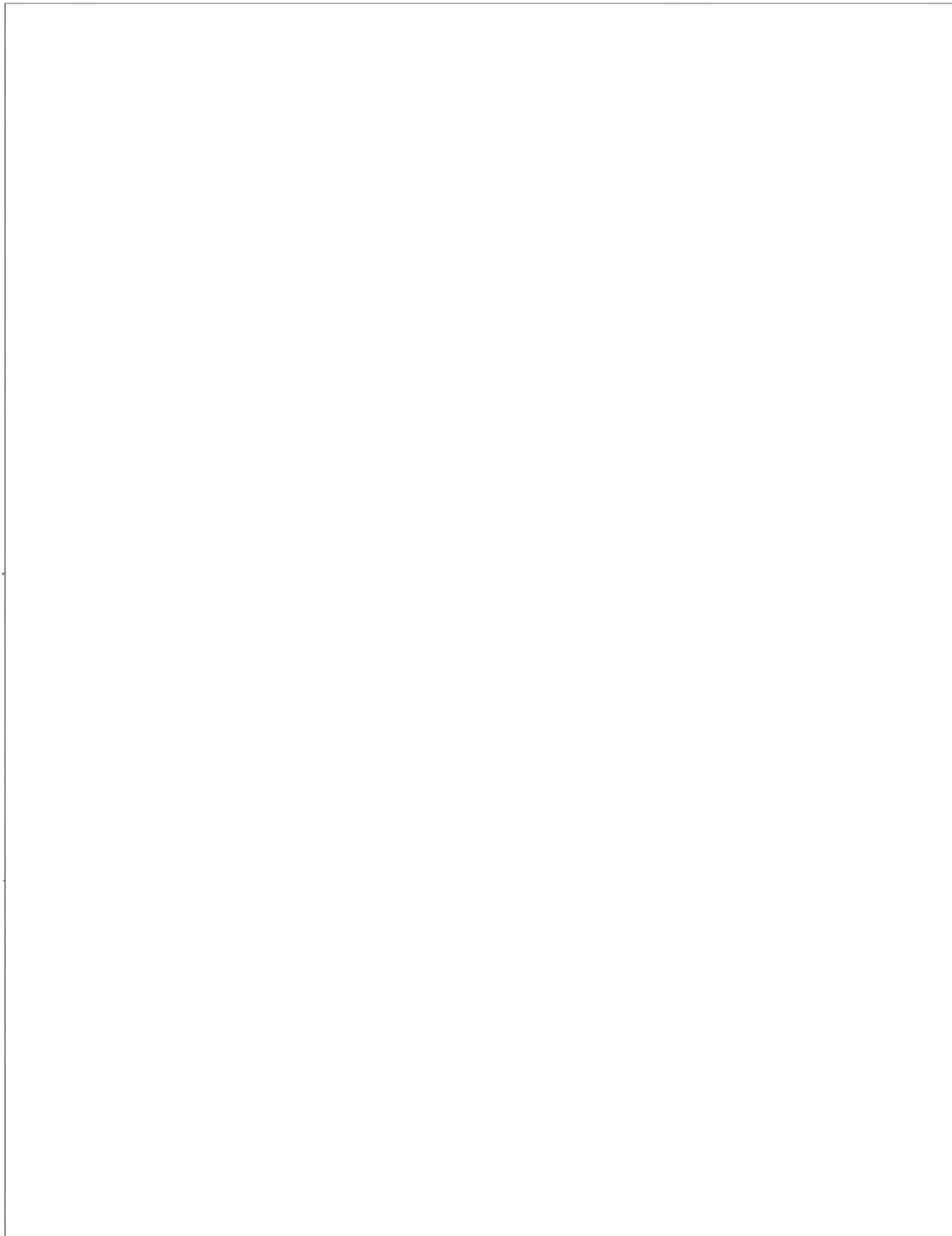
--Air raids on North Vietnam do not appear always to be very accurate [REDACTED]

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Giap Analyzes the War: North Vietnamese Defense Minister Giap has published another in his series of analyses of the war. So far, only a portion of the first installment is available in Washington.

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The general tone of the article exudes confidence. He claims that the military situation has never been better, that his military forces are "invincible," and foreign aid "increasingly effective." Although there is nothing unusual or startling in this first part, it should be noted that Giap frequently keeps the heart of his analysis--such as current and future Communist strategy and predictions of future US actions--until the conclusion of his article.

\* \* \*

The Rice Crop: The regime has turned out city dwellers in unusually large numbers this year to assist in transplanting the important tenth month rice crop. Some 120,000, for instance, have been sent to one province alone, according to the party journal.

It is too early to assess the prospects, but transplanting was delayed by a long drought which ended only in mid-August. A bumper harvest will be needed if North Vietnam is to overcome its dependence on food imports. The last three rice harvests were below average.



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